(a) whether it is a fact that only one district Palakkad in Kerala has been included in the National Food Security Mission;

(b) if so, whether Government of Kerala has requested Central Government to include Thrissur, Malappuram and Kuttanad districts of Kerala under the National Food Security Mission; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Only one district of Palakkad in Kerala has been included under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) *i.e.* NFSM-Rice.

(b) and (c) This Ministry received representation from the State Governments apart from other dignitaries including Members of Parliament.

The above representations were examined. The districts under NFSM are included based on certain criteria *i.e.* for NFSM-Rice, those districts were identified which have more than 50,000 ha area under rice and productivity less than the State's average productivity; for NFSM-Wheat the districts in which irrigation coverage under wheat is more than 50% and productivity is less than State's average were identified. The districts for implementation of NFSM-Pulses have been selected based on existing large area under pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and utilization of rice fallows.

Since only one district *i.e.* Palakkad qualified the above objective criteria, this district was included under NFSM-Rice for area based interventions. As regards other rice growing districts in Kerala, the State Government was advised to take these districts under the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes-Rice of Macro Management Scheme or under newly launched Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Power supply for farm pumps in Vidarbha

1685. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the sad plight of medium and marginal farmers of Vidarbha whose first paddy crop this year has been completely destroyed due to scanty rains, and those who waited for rains and delayed their sowing, are also equally suffering; and

(b) if so, the special steps taken during August-October, 2009 to provide three phase power supply needed for farm pumps on priority basis so that the cycle of unfortunate farmers' suicides is not repeated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Government is aware of the situation. It is partially true that due to scanty rains the paddy crop has been affected and caused losses of more than 50% to the paddy crop reported on 68500 hectares in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra.

(b) There are 30,378 No's paid pending applications for pump-sets connection as on 31.3.2009 in Vidarbha region. Out of which 25,370 numbers have completed formalities (*i.e.* submission of test report) and 11,876 numbers of Agricultural Pumps connections have been released so far up to 31st October, 2009. During the current financial year 2009-10 further directives have been issued to the field office to make all afforts to clear all pending cases as on 31.03.2009 in chronological order.

Drip irrigation

1686. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in the countries like Israel where water is scarce, drip irrigation is being used successfully; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not encouraging it in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation in January 2006 to install drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in the country. The scheme supports the following interventions:-

(i) Assistance @ 50% to all categories of farmers in the ratio of 40:10 shared between Central Government and State Government and remaining 50% is borne by the beneficiary either through his/her own resources or by availing soft loan from financial institution. An area of 8.02 lakh ha. has been achieved under drip irrigation.

(ii) Training and awareness programmes on drip technology for farmers, officials, financial institutions, NGOs and other stake holders.

(iii) Operational research on drip irrigation technology for various crops through 22 Precision Farming Development Centres.

(iv) Integration of drip irrigation with other plasticulture applications/technologies *viz.* greenhouse, mulching, low tunnel etc.

(v) Integration of Macro and Micro Irrigation in canal command area e.g. Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1687. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the global climate change and the impact of the resultant high temperature on agriculture;